



Newsletter

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January 2023

A Message from our Minister

Rev. Pam Philips

Who do I want to be and become? That's a question many of us ask ourselves at this time of year – the beginning. Some of us have given up the practice of making New Year's Resolutions, having disappointed ourselves by not living into them much past January. But that doesn't mean that we cannot take time to reflect on what we want for ourselves in the year ahead and to be more intentional about making it happen.

This month's theme – ***The Path of Finding Our Center*** – puts us on that journey of self-discovery and helps us to answer not only who we are now but who we might want to become. We can explore the theme together in worship and small group meetings, as well as individually, and this post-holiday month promises to give us time and space for more quiet introspection. I invite us all to make that time and space for ourselves, so that we may live more deliberately.

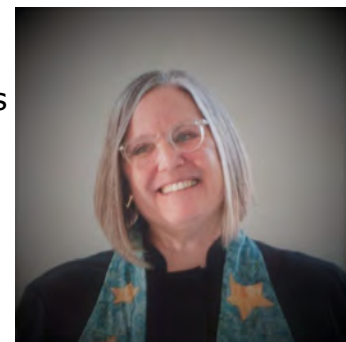
The risk of introspection though, is that it can lead to what has been derisively called "navel-gazing." But the better we know ourselves, the better we can live in the world. UUC has many opportunities this month and coming year to turn our attention inward AND outward.

- Because of the strong response to our Social Justice Survey, four groups are forming and meeting this month to plan how we might better transform our community and the world through courageous love. Consider joining one or two of these groups to learn more about what others are thinking and whether you'd like to join in their efforts. Read more about them [here](#).
- The Anti-Racism Practice sessions we held last year are restarting on January 17th, this year adding members of Blacksburg United Methodist and edges along with Blacksburg Presbyterian and UUC. Sign up [here](#).
- Along with ongoing Lifespan Faith Development meetings (Meditation, Conversations on Our Faith), we'll be adding workshops to explore the [UUA Common Read](#) (starting January 19th), Transgender Inclusion in Congregations, and What Moves Us, and monthly Spiritual Practices workshops. Read about them [here](#).
- The [UUC Calendar](#) is full of opportunities to gather for learning and fun, including social justice and family movie nights, a Coffee House sponsored by the youth, new Parent Covenant Groups (contact Director of Lifespan Faith Development, [Rachel Craine](#)). And don't forget our Monday morning breakfast groups, UUYA's, Friday women's lunch group and different support groups.

As I list all the opportunities, the month of January seems as full as December! So much for quiet introspection. But Finding Our Center requires not just inward but outward reflection, because we are not separate beings but parts of the interconnected web of life. Sometimes we discover our most cherished values in conversation with others and the world.

May you find the best path toward finding your center this month, alone and in community. And may yours be a happy new year!

Rev. Pam



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Minister:

Hours by appt.

Administrator:

Sundays 10:00-Noon

Other times by appt.

DLFD:

Hours by appt.

If you need access to the building please give 24 hours notice by emailing Ericka

Message from Our Board

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that 2023 brings in a year of health, sufficiency, and democracy for all of us on the planet, and health for the planet itself.

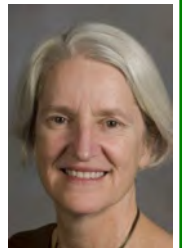
The Board is ringing in the New Year with a new practice at our meetings. Anna Tulou, our ministerial intern, brought us an Internal Institutional Analysis on Race that she received in one of her seminary classes. We welcome this document as an avenue for the congregation to formally continue our Anti-Racism focus that was started a few years ago and continued with the vote to adopt the Eighth Principle. The document provides a series of questions in aspects of church life, including Personal, Church History, Denominational Affiliation, Congregational Culture, Education, Finances, Friendships, Mission and Community Outreach, Personnel, and Leadership Development. These will be shared in January with the various committees relevant to the focus.

The Board has agreed to spend 15 minutes of each meeting sharing our reactions, experiences, and thoughts about some of the questions. The first area we are discussing is the Personal. The first two questions for analysis are: What is your personal relationship with racism, white privilege, and white supremacy?; and what stories or experiences from your early years shaped your understanding of race?

Additional questions in this area include: [If you are white] Have you ever used your whiteness as a tool for your own benefit, or to the detriment of others? What are your fears around race, racism, and the work of antiracism? What are you hopeful for, for yourself, your congregation, your community?

We are excited about entering into these monthly discussions for ourselves as individuals, as well as living into the UUC Strategic Plan goal to renewing our commitment to inclusion and social justice. This aspect of the Strategic Plan serves the UUC Mission of Create compassionate community. As the focus questions are shared with the committees, we encourage you to participate in the process as well. If you as an individual or group wish to participate in your own way, please ask Rev. Pam, Anna Tulou, or a board member to share the document.

Nancy, Board President



December Board Meeting Highlights

- Budgets for next year - due end of January.
- The Board has a new practice at meetings focused on anti-racism.

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, **January 12** at 7 PM. The [minutes and reports](#) of meetings for the past two calendar years are available.

Questions, Ideas, Complaints for the Board: Send an email to adresstheBoard@uucnr.org.

Events & Community News

November 1/2-Plate Donations

Thanks to your generosity, UUC continued its practice of helping others in both our community and beyond. The October recipients were:

December 4: NRV Cares, \$261.22

December 11: MCEAP, \$202.07

December 18: To Our House, \$300.13

December 25: Community Assistance Fund, TBD

Check out our [Give webpage](#) for information on donating options.

Second Sunday Potluck

January 8 at 11:30 AM

Everyone is invited to stay following the service on Sunday, if Montgomery County is not in the red zone for Covid, to enjoy a delicious meal together plus meet and greet old and new friends. Bring the family, bring your friends – and bring a dish to share, twice the amount for your family unit. Please include a small card with the ingredients for those with allergies.

The countdown to the 2023 UUC Auction is on!

As 2022 comes to a close, the auction committee is looking ahead and one of the congregation's favorite events - the spring fundraising auction! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, February 11**, and in the meantime, if you already know what you would like to donate, please fill out this [Google form](#) and feel free to contact [Lucas Machi](#). If you have questions or would like to help. We can't wait to see you in the spring!

Volunteers Cooks Needed

Our congregation will be participating in this year's TO OUR HOUSE program from **January 14-27**. TOH is the local homeless shelter program for single men and women, open only during the winter months. It provides a place to sleep, a warm dinner, breakfast, and a bag lunch. Like last year, we will be partnering with Glade Church. Glade will serve as the host church and UUC will serve as the support church. In our support role, we will be providing all meals for participants. Supplies for breakfasts and lunches are purchased using your donations (1/2 plate offering + other donations). Dinner meals are assembled from dishes provided by individual members.

For each day of our support, we will need to provide a main course, a side or salad, and a dessert. Each dish must be large enough to serve 12-15 persons. Preferably, it should come in a disposable container.

You will need to deliver your dish to Glade Church sometime between 5:15 and 5:45 pm or arrange beforehand for us to pick it up from you.

There will be an online link for you to register your dishes (check weekly announcements). We will also provide a table in Elarth after services for those who prefer to register in person.

Check Covid Community levels before outing [here](#).

January Food Pantry Donations

UUC's Community Service Team's January suggested food donations for the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry to the following items: ketchup, mustard, and mayonnaise.



Whither Sunday Circle?

I love Sunday Circle! It is a time that I set aside to learn something new about a variety of subjects which allows for questions to the speaker(s) and discussion with attendees. Sunday Circle starts at 8:30 AM on the first and third Sundays of the month excepting summer; a time of day when my brain is fresh (or as fresh as can be); a time when the hot coffee tastes great! These days I mostly attend Sunday Circle by Zoom, in comfortable sweatshirt and sweatpants and Greta (our dog) lying on the floor close by.

What is Sunday Circle? Sunday Circle was started years ago by Morton Sadler as an alternative to the "churchiness" of the more formal services. After Morton's death, others have led Sunday Circle which involves finding and scheduling speakers both from within and outside our congregation. Sunday Circle has hosted professors from Virginia Tech and elsewhere, town administrators and officials, and friends or family of members of our congregation. Many of our members have presented subjects such as capitalism, marketing, trips with family on the famed Route 66, travels in Mongolia, the Green New Deal, dignity and the person, the Sahel in Africa, and many more. If I can compare Sunday Circle to any other program in our community, it would be Life-long Learning Institute (LLI); UUC's Sunday Circle is our very own version of LLI!

For the past several years, Jamie McReynolds, who is the successor to Jim Coppenheaver and Isabel Berney, has led Sunday Circle. After the coming spring he wants to pass the baton to others. I would like to get three people involved. Three folks leading Sunday Circle would broaden the scope of speakers, lighten the load of scheduling time/date for those speakers and require the physical attendance of one of the leaders only every 6 weeks during the fall, winter, and spring seasons. That's manageable! Let's hear from two others to join me in perpetuating Sunday Circle! If you want to participate or if you have any comments/suggestions for Sunday Circle, email me, [Bill Baker](#). Thanks.

New UUC Social Justice Teams

Based on the results of our recent Social Justice Survey, in January, four new social justice teams will begin in our congregation— voting rights, climate/environmental justice, reproductive justice and racial justice. Everyone is welcome to participate. If you did not fill out the survey but wish to learn more, contact the following team leaders who will provide you with information and a zoom link to their initial meetings. If you are not available at the time of the initial meeting, but want to participate, let the team leaders know of your interest. There may be opportunities for the teams to work together on intersecting justice issues and/or with other existing groups in the larger community.

- **Voting Rights:** [Sara Dalton](#) - initial zoom meeting January 2, 7:00 PM
- **Climate/Environmental Justice:** [Anita Puckett](#), [Briana Carper](#), [Bob Stimson](#) – initial zoom meeting January 3, 7:00 PM
- **Reproductive Justice:** [Sara Dalton](#) – initial zoom meeting January 5, 7:00 PM
- **Racial Justice:** [Barbara Taylor](#) – initial zoom meeting January 11, 7:00 PM

We are excited to see so many UUs continuing to live their faith through action!

Stewardship 2023

Happy New Year! As we think about all the ways we have given in 2022, I want to remind all of us that our Stewardship Campaign will be underway starting with our early bird campaign in February and winding down in May with our Stewardship celebration.

Our theme this year is, **Legacy**. All of us at UUC, whether you are brand new or one of us "old timers," have benefited from those of our congregation that have come before us and worked hard with their time, talent, and treasure to build up our building, programs, and the very heart of UUC. We want to honor all those folks and celebrate everyone who is a part of our community today. We also want to make sure that the young people we so enjoy during "Time for All Ages," Buddy Project, YRUU coffee house, and the UUYA inspired holiday float get to enjoy UUC for many years to come. We also want to make sure to have a thriving and vibrant community that welcomes future members who are looking for a loving and open-minded religious community.

Our campaign this year will be a combination of fun community events and cozy one-on-one coffee conversations. Please let me know if you want to help lead a fun hiking trip, knitting circle, or visit to a nearby brewery or park as a stewardship community event. We're looking for stewards who want to make a difference by connecting with others in a one-on-one conversation, as well as creative types to help us with videos or to help plan a fun "end of event" celebration. Please [email](#) or text me if you want to help! Thanks much!

- Carol Kern, Stewardship Chair (540) 357-1918

Buddy Check

If you live alone and would benefit from having a "phone/text buddy" to check on you each morning to insure you are ok, email [Lisa](#) or [Pauletta](#). We'll work to find you a buddy. As we age, accidents and illness happen, and knowing someone checks on you daily will bring some comfort.

Anti-Racism Group is Discussing the 1619 Project

The Anti-Racism Group is discussing the award-winning book, *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*, edited by Nikole Hannah-Jones, Caitlin Roper, Ilena Silverman, and Jake Silverstein. We will be meeting the second and fourth Sunday of the month from 1:00 to 2:00 pm on via this Zoom link.

Please join us on Sunday, January 8 for our next conversation, co-facilitated by Katherine Allen and Annette Burr, where we will discuss Chapter 2 (Race). All are welcome to join us!

At our first meeting in December, 12 of us had a lively discussion of the Preface (Origins) and Chapter 1 (Democracy), where the case is made for 1619, not 1776, as the start of our country. Some of had read the original New York Times Magazine essays, some of us are reading the book (updated and expanded), and all of us are listening to one another. We're discussing ideas about the history of slavery in the founding and expansion of the United States, the experiences of enslaved individuals, and the individuals and governments who enslaved them. The book includes scholarly essays, memoirs, poems, and fiction, all of which contextualize the inheritance of race and caste as affecting every American. Join us as we explore these topics further.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

Women's Lunch

All women are welcome to join together for lunch on Fridays at 11:30 AM at local restaurants or noon at UUC. Check [online calendar](#) for locations and times for the following weeks.

UUYAs

If you're between the ages of 18 and 25, the UUYAs (Universalist Unitarian Young Adults) meets every Tuesday in Elarth Hall from 7:00 to 9:00 PM to play games, engage with the community, and support our congregation. Once a month they hope to have an event away from UUC. For more information, contact uuya@uucnr.org.

Women's & Men's Breakfasts

All women and men are invited each Monday at UUC for coffee, breakfast (bring your own), and conversation with the men gathering from 7-9 AM and women from 7:30-9:30 AM. The two groups meet separately. Join in when you are able.

Sages

Join us on the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 2 PM at UUC for stimulating conversation on topics that affect older adults and more. All ages welcome.

Yoga

Join this free weekly group at UUC on Wednesdays at 5:30 PM. Bring a mat if you have one. To get on the email list for the weekly status of class, contact [Lori](#).

MONTHLY SUPPORT GROUPS AT UUC

Parent Bereavement Support

A community-wide support group for bereaved parents and grandparents who have lost an adult or adolescent child. We come together once a month on 2nd Mondays (**January 9**) from 6-7 PM to help one another on our journeys. For more info and the Zoom link, contact [Katherine](#) or [Lisa](#).

Caregivers Support

UUC hosts a monthly support group for caregivers to share their experiences and challenges. The group meets on the 2nd Tuesdays of each month (**January 10**) from 7-8:30 PM via this [Zoom link](#). Questions or concerns - contact [Rev. Pam](#).

NAMI Support

Connections Support: Persons living with a mental illness are welcome to join this NAMI support group on the 1st (**January 2**) and 3rd Monday (**January 15**) of each month from 6-7:30 PM. Contact [Kimberley](#) for the Zoom link or for more info.

Family Support: Family and friends of persons living with a mental illness are welcome to join this NAMI support group on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (**January 18**) from 6-7:30 PM. Contact [Kristine](#) for the Zoom link or for more info.

Transgender Support

NRV Trans Support is a peer-led organization whose mission is to offer support, resources, and social activities to all transgender and gender non-conforming individuals in the NRV in a supportive, anonymous and affirming environment. To learn more, visit their [website](#). Two support groups meet monthly, and both groups are sponsored by UUC.

The **NRV Trans Adult Group** meets on 1st Thursdays (**January 5**) from 7-8:30 PM and 3rd Saturdays (**January 21**) from 1-2:30 PM and welcomes all adults who identify under the trans umbrella or are questioning their gender. For more information about these meetings, contact nrvtrans@gmail.com.

The **Families Group** meets on the 4th Tuesday (**January 24**) from 6:30-8 PM and is for parents and/or caregivers who have trans or gender non-conforming children. The group is also for anyone under 18 who identifies under the trans umbrella or who is questioning their gender. Parents are welcome with or without their children, but children must be accompanied by a parent or caregiver. The group provides resources, advice, and support for families. For more information about these meetings, contact nrvtransfamily@gmail.com. To ensure the safety and privacy of families, all interested families must meet with one of the facilitators.

Lifespan Faith Development

Family Fun and Movie Night

Encanto—Friday, January 27, 6-9pm

Come to UUC for the magic of Disney's *Encanto*. The Madrigals are an extraordinary family who live hidden in the mountains of Colombia in a charmed place called the Encanto. The magic of the Encanto has blessed every child in the family with a unique gift -- every child except Mirabel...

The fun starts at 6pm with food and crafts. Enjoy the Columbian food of the Madrigal family—empanadas, arepes, and more. At 7 pm the movie starts. Lucas will make his soon to be world famous popcorn.



Children's RE continues to meet for children in preschool through middle school. Children spend the first 15 minutes in the service and then are sung down to their classes.

[Register Here](#)

YRUU Coffee House

Saturday, January 14, 6:00 pm

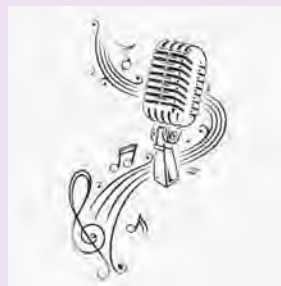


Hello Everyone!

The Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) will be hosting a Coffee House on Saturday, January 14th, 2023. We will be supplying hot beverages and baked goods, as well as hosting an awesome open mic starting at 6pm. Come share your cool talents or simply come enjoy the show, and help us fundraise for our future trips!

Want to perform?

[Sign up here](#)



Thank you for your support,

YRUU

Sign up to donate food items [here](#).

Spring Adult Faith Formation Offerings

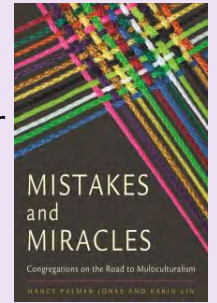
UUA Common Read Discussion Group

Authors Nancy Palmer Jones and Karin Lin—a white minister and a lay person of color—explored five UU congregations' journeys toward Beloved Community. In *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism* (Skinner House Books, 2019), they shared the joy, disappointment, and growth these congregations found.

Thursdays at 7pm, library/zoom

[Register Here](#)

January 19, February 2 and 16, March 2



Transgender Inclusion in the Congregation: 6-session workshop by Transforming Hearts Collective, focused on helping our congregation to be fully inclusive, and affirming of, the full breadth of gender diversity. Gain the context and skills to help us transform into a fully welcoming congregation.

Mondays at 7pm, library/zoom

February 13, 20, 27



[Register Here](#)

What Moves Us: A 10-session course by Thandeka, "What Moves Us" is a course in both Unitarian Universalist history and theology, exploring the voices and spiritual experiences of historical and contemporary UU theologians, and how their experiences resonate within our own lives and theological understandings. Come to learn more about those who have shaped and are shaping our UU faith tradition, as well as to deepen our own beliefs and learn more about one another's. Led by Anna Tulou and Rev. Pam Philips.

Wednesdays on Zoom

March 22—George de Benneville

May 3—Sophia Lyon Fahs

March 29—Charles Chauncy

May 17—James Luther Adams

April 5—Hosea Ballou

May 24—Forrest Church

April 19—William Ellery Channing

May 31—William F. Schulz

April 26—Margaret Fuller

June 2—Thandeka

[Sign up here](#) for any or all sessions.

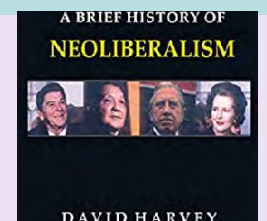
Neoliberalism Book Discussion: Jim Bohland will lead a discussion of the book *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*, by David Harvey.

Sunday March 5 and 12

11:30 am-12:30 pm

Room 5 (downstairs) and on Zoom

[Sign up here](#)



Spiritual Practice—Prayer Beads

Sunday, January 15 at 1 pm

Create, and learn to use, a UU Prayer Bead necklace. Participants will choose their beads, create the necklace, then learn a simple meditation that can be used at home. [Register Here](#)

Social Justice Film Series: January 6— 6:30 pm

The Biggest Little Farm chronicles the eight-year quest of John and Molly Chester as they trade city living for 200 acres of barren farmland and a dream to harvest in harmony with nature. Through dogged perseverance and embracing the opportunity provided by nature's conflicts, the Chester's unlock and uncover a biodiverse design for living that exists far beyond their farm, its seasons, and our wildest imagination. Featuring breathtaking cinematography, captivating animals, and an urgent message to heed Mother Nature's call, *The Biggest Little Farm* provides us all a vital blueprint for better living and a healthier planet.



On-Going Adult RE Programs

Sunday Circle

Meets Sunday 8:30-9:30 AM. In Library and on Zoom

January 15: Recovery from a Stroke:

A personal account from Carl Hansen, a recent stroke survivor and his daughter/advocate, Carol Kern. This is a true story of what happened when a stroke affected Carl, and their experiences, with helpful suggestions for stroke victims and their loved ones.

We will meet in-person in the Library and on Zoom.

Anti-Racism Discussion Groups

Meets the second and fourth Sunday 1:00-2:00 p.m.

All are welcome to join our ongoing discussion group on white privilege and racism. Topics are announced via email. Email dlfd@uucnr.org to join the listserv to receive links to the discussion articles. [Zoom link](#).

Meditation Group

Meets Tuesday 5:00-6:00 PM

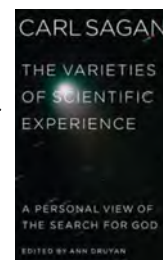
Our meditation group meets weekly for those interested in starting or deepening their meditation practice. Our format is drop-in, so you need not attend all sessions. Open with centering words and basic instruction, followed by sitting practice. Meditators from all traditions and all levels of experience are welcome. [Zoom link](#).



Conversations on Our Faith

Meets Wednesdays 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Join our conversation as we read the book, *Varieties of Scientific Experience: A Personal View of the Search for God*, by Carl Sagan. All are welcome, even if you have not read the chapters of the book under discussion. To learn more, contact Tim Pickering.



'Round the Grounds

By Jim Flowers

Yesterday I walked the winter solstice version of the Pathway of the Spirit with my sweetheart, Brigitte, and our oldest daughter, Beth. They are both avid gardeners and nature lovers. It was a very pleasant way to enjoy some outdoor air, after all the recent frigid days that kept us mostly house bound. For practical purposes, I provided the Grounds Tour we offer on the first Sunday of most months, depending on the weather. The weather spirits provided us with about 42 degrees and some sun. The forecast for the next couple of weeks, however, promises (ha!) warmer days, perfect for a quiet, contemplative, outdoor experience.

You actually begin the tour by driving or walking up the hill from Gladewood Drive, our "open door" is welcoming all the way from the street. The driveway is flanked by manicured shrubs as it passes the playground committed to our children and directly faces our rainbow banner.

The half-mile Pathway begins at the top of the curving sidewalk leading uphill from the Elarth Hall doorway. It stitches together all the areas of our property, and is a comfortable 20 minute stroll. But it also provides a special opportunity for extended contemplative stops. You will pass through the Gardens, the Glades, the Meadow, and the Lawn, each with their own special features. Integral to the Pathway are seven meditation points, each of which includes a (donated) bench and signage denoting one of Unitarian Universalism's Seven Principles and a quotation explaining or amplifying on the meaning of that principle. Each meditation point has its own mini-landscape design as well.

When one follows the pathway clockwise, the last leg contains the 'Unitarian Universalist Memorial Walkway' consisting of a low, fifty-three foot wall and signage with the names and biographical sketches of forty notable Unitarians, Universalists, and Unitarian-Universalists. The memorial is not a 'Hall of Fame' however but was created to honor the contributions and sacrifices of many thousands of Unitarian Universalists, with the forty as a representative sample. You are invited to sit on the wall and read their stories.

Uphill from the Memorial, the pathway ends at the small picnic area outside the meetinghouse.

[Here's a map.](#) I encourage you to open your spirit to the spirits of the Grounds. They are there all year long, and they customize themselves to meet the needs of every individual.



Welcome the Newest Members of UUC



Chris Long is a Blacksburg “townie” who graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in mathematics. Professionally, Chris has recently started working at a local bank hoping to establish himself further in the community and get to know Blacksburg on his own terms. While he’s only been attending UUC for just over a year, he has made a place for himself both as an RE teacher and an active member of the Unitarian Universalist Young Adults (UUYA) while also lending a hand to various projects. He is eager to help with larger activities going forward, such as becoming a member of the Stewardship Committee and helping to organize the upcoming UUC auction.



Danny-Dan-Daniel Vogler has been a farmer, teacher, professor, and the co-founder/CEO of a software company. He did his university studies at The University of Illinois and served on the faculties of The University of Michigan and Virginia Tech. He likes to read both fiction and nonfiction, plays duplicate bridge, and loves fun. He and Lady Jean have been married for 58 years and begat two daughters. They admire, respect, and adore their two grandchildren.



Gail Dutchess is a native of West Virginia and found her way to Virginia by way of North Carolina. She made Galax her home 10 years ago when she married Suzi Hiatt. She is the step-mother of 3 daughters and 2 grandchildren ages 5 & 2. Gail has a lifelong career in intellectual and developmental disability services and enjoys woodworking, playing and writing music, gardening, and spending time with her family. Gail has searched for a place of belonging to explore, learn, contribute and empower others in the journey of spirituality and has found a home at UUC.



Suzi Hiatt is a native of the Galax area and has 3 daughters and 4 grandchildren. She has a lifelong career and commitment in disability services with a passion for assuring that her daughter (and the children of others) has the resources needed to be safe and uplifted in each persons’ ability. After many years of seeking a “home” to cultivate her spiritual side, she feels that this community is a safe place to belong where she is challenged to seek and share her spiritual path and challenged to share and contribute her yet unsure talents for the betterment of her immediate and extended community.



Briana Carper is a daughter, sister to 3, and proud aunt to 2 nieces. She loves the outdoors, playing and snuggling with her parent's puppy, Tusli, exploring, home decorating, learning (especially about the spiritual and metaphysical), singing, dancing, and experiencing live music. Briana is passionate about nature, sustainable living, and all roads to self and world healing. After living and traveling both in the U.S. and abroad, she is happily rooting in SW VA, where her family originates.

Joe and Robin Cooley recently relocated to Blacksburg after a lifetime of residence in Upstate NY. They attended the UU congregation in Rochester, NY for many years. Joe is an architect and works at Virginia Tech in the office of Equity and Accessibility. Robin also works at Tech as an academic affairs coordinator in the School of Architecture, Arts, and Design. They have a son that is currently living in Philadelphia and a daughter still living in Rochester. They just recently moved into a house in the Airport Acres neighborhood and are looking forward to becoming involved in the UU community activities.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Sunday Services January 2023

Services are now in person at UUC and virtual via [Zoom](#) each Sunday at 10 AM.
We welcome you to join us.



Welcome to the Path of
Finding Our
Center

January 1: Finding Our Center: Heart and Hearth, Ministerial Intern Anna Tulou and Director of Lifespan Faith Development Rachel Craine. Welcome the New Year and winter gifts by participating in this “cozy church” or “slipper Sunday” service for all ages – wear your pajamas, robes, slippers, sweatpants, or your regular church clothes: whatever makes you feel the most comfortable and cozy. Blankets and stuffed

animals are welcome! We will be talking about the importance of the hearth, as well as the hearth within, our spiritual center, drawing upon teachings from Jewish tradition and others.

January 8: Remembering Who We Are, ” Rev. Pam and Worship Associate, Ellen Plummer. What brings us together as a community of faith -- not just here at UUC but as Unitarian Universalists? We'll explore our values -- personal and communal -- at the center of our faith.

January 15: Engaging Our Core, Rev. Pam and Worship Associate, Victoria Taylor. If we are to have strength and power, we must engage our core – not just physically but spiritually and socially. What does that look like and how can we use it to act more fully in the world?

January 22: De-Centering OUR Center, Rev. Pam and Worship Associate, Earle Irwin. Learning that we are NOT the center of the universe is an unsettling and challenging process, but how can it help us live more fully into our values and Beloved Community?

January 29: Finding Our Center: At the Intersection of All Creation, Ministerial Intern, Anna Tulou and Worship Associate, Heather Nicholson. We close our month of “Finding Our Center” with deep reflection on the meaning of various spiritual and secular practices of orientation within the world.



Our Mission

Inspire. Create. Transform.

Inspire spiritual and ethical growth. Create compassionate community.
Transform our community and the world through courageous love.



Our Vision

UUC will be a beacon of liberal religion in the New River Valley. We will join with other organizations and faiths to work for just causes.